



Inver Grove Heights City Council
Monday, February 5, 2024 at 6:00 PM
8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

AGENDA

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS: Individuals may submit written public comments in advance of the meeting by emailing comments to Rebecca Kiernan (rkiernan@ighmn.gov). Comments received prior to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2024, will be provided to the Council at or before the February 5, 2024 meeting.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Discussion Items**
 - A. Inver Grove Heights History Book Proposal
 - B. 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan
 - C. Update on NWA Development Fee Research & Review
 - D. Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 13D.05, subd. (3)(c)(3)
4. **Adjourn**

This document is available upon a three (3) business day request in alternate formats such as braille, large print, audio recording, etc. Please contact Rebecca Kiernan, City Clerk, at 651.450.2513 or rkiernan@ighmn.gov.



Request for Council Action

SUBJECT: **Inver Grove Heights History Book Proposal**

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Discussion Items

CONTACT: Kris Wilson, City Administrator, 651.450.2511

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is asked to receive a brief presentation from historian and writer Cory Haala regarding the idea of writing an updated book on the history of Inver Grove Heights.

BACKGROUND

Staff has been approached by Cory Haala, an Assistant Professor of History at UW-Stevens Point and a 2009 graduate of Simley High School, who is interested in writing a book on the history of Inver Grove Heights and would like the City to consider sponsoring a grant application to fund the project.

The grant program identified is the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program, often referred to as "Legacy Grants." More information on the grants can be found online at www.mnhs.org/preservation/legacy-grants.

Mr. Haala will be present at the Council work session to give a brief overview of his proposed project and the process of applying for a Legacy Grant.

FISCAL IMPACT

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

SUBJECT: 2024 Environmental Advisory Commission Work Plan

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Discussion Items

CONTACT: Ally Sutherland, Environmental Specialist, 651.604.8511

PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is asked to receive an overview and provide feedback on the Environmental Advisory Commission's proposed 2024 Work Plan.

BACKGROUND

The duties and functions of the City's Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2. These include advising the City Council on environmental issues including local landfill matters, wetland replacement applications and aircraft noise, and promoting public awareness of local environmental issues. The EAC, City Council and staff found the first annual work plan developed in 2023 to be a helpful guiding document. Therefore, staff and the EAC have developed a proposed 2024 EAC Work Plan to define priorities and guide work for the upcoming year.

The proposed 2024 goals are based on the 2023 EAC Work Plan progress, regional trends, community requests, existing city environmental programming, and commissioner requests related to the duties of the EAC. Staff believe the proposed work plan is achievable by December 2024 with support from the city's Environmental Specialist, EAC and available technical assistance.

Upon Council approval of the work plan, staff and the EAC will initiate implementation of work plan action items, which will include future requests for City Council approvals pertaining to each goal. It is expected that the time needed to support implementation of this work plan will not exceed staff time already budgeted for environmental programming within the Community Development Department. The vast majority of staff time spent on plan implementation will fall into the existing work plan of the Environmental Specialist, whose job duties include coordinating the development and implementation of sustainability projects with the Environmental Advisory Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT

This item is budget neutral for the City.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend City Council provide comments on the 2024 EAC Work Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 EAC Work Plan Progress
2. Draft 2024 EAC Work Plan

2023 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN PROGRESS

Duties and functions of the City of Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2, which include reviewing and advising the City Council on environmental issues and promoting public awareness and understanding of local environmental issues. In 2023, the EAC worked on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

1. (COMPLETE) Extend Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2023 to assist with energy related 2023 EAC Work Plan goals.

- 01/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval.
- 02/2023: City Council approved MOU.
- 01/2023-12/2023: Partners In Energy continued to assist the city in Energy Action Plan implementation: developed energy efficiency communication materials for in-person, newsletter articles and electronic media; assisted with research and development of the Sustainable IGH Community Recognition Program; provided 50 free or discounted Home Energy Squad visits; hosted Home Energy information table and presentation; developed Renewable Energy Challenge for earth day, etc.

2. (COMPLETE) Support development of a Dakota County Organics Drop-Off located in IGH.

- 05/2023: City Council approved JPA for Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off.
- 09/2023: Inver Glen Library Organics Drop-Off opened.
- 07/2023-09/2023: County promoted site via direct mailer to IGH households. City promoted the drop off in the Q3 Insights newsletter and at five in-person events.
- Participation rates: 10,481 registered households in Dakota County (6% of all households). IGH registration rates have exceeded the County's expectations.
 - Eagan, 1,798 registered household, 6% of household
 - Burnsville, 944, 4%
 - IGH, 934, 6%
 - Mendota Heights, 817, 17%
 - Apple Valley 6%, Farmington 7%, Hastings 8%, Lakeville 5%, Rosemount 10%. WSP 8%

3. (IN PROGRESS) Support solar development in IGH by joining SolSmart.

- 04/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval of SolSmart.
- 05/2023: City Council approved resolution to join SolSmart.
- 07/2023: Program liaison assigned to the city.
- Present: City is continuing to work towards reaching bronze certification in 2024.

4. (IN PROGRESS) Recognize IGH residents and businesses taking environmentally friendly actions by developing a recognition program.

- 06/2023: EAC recommended City Council approval of Sustainable IGH and reviewed application materials.
- 07/2023: City Council approved resolution to develop Sustainable IGH and reviewed application materials.

- Present: Final application and communications materials are under development. Program will launch in mid-March. Applications will be due April 31. EAC will review applications in May 2024. City Council and EAC will recognize awardees in June 2024.

5. (IN PROGRESS) Explore how the city can support electric vehicle readiness.

- 02/2023: City Council approved resolution to join EV Smart.
- 07/2023: EAC recommended EECBG be used towards a fleet electric vehicle.
- 08/2023: City Council selected different use for EECBG funds.
- Present: Working towards EV Smart program goals, including developing public education materials to encourage electric vehicle adoption.

2024 ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Duties and functions of the City of Inver Grove Heights Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC) are defined by City Code 2-4-2, which include reviewing and advising the City Council on environmental issues and promoting public awareness and understanding of local environmental issues. In 2024, the EAC will work on the following work plan actions with support from the city's Environmental Specialist.

- 1. Support the City's Energy Action Plan.** Extend the Xcel Energy Partners in Energy MOU through 2024 to assist with implementation of the Energy Action Plan.
- 2. Support the City's Solid Waste Abatement Program as related items arise.**
- 3. Support the new Sustainable IGH recognition program.** Sustainable IGH will be launched in Spring 2024. The EAC will help promote the program, review applications, and select awardees.
- 4. Support SolSmart implementation as related items arise.**
- 5. Review landfill expansion applications related to the anticipated Pine Bend Landfill proposed expansion.**
- 6. Incorporate stormwater and groundwater educational items into the EAC agendas.** Invite internal and/or external speakers to educate the EAC on priority topics.
- 7. Incorporate natural resources related educational items into the EAC agendas.** Invite internal and/or external speakers to educate the EAC on priority topics.
- 8. Process other business-as-usual items related to landfills, wetlands, airport noise, and other assigned duties of the Environmental Advisory Commission per City Code 2-4-2.**

Request for Council Action

SUBJECT: **Update on NWA Development Fee Research & Review**

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Discussion Items

CONTACT: Kris Wilson, City Administrator, 651.450.2511

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is asked to receive an update from staff regarding development fees in the northwest area (NWA).

BACKGROUND

At the Council's January 8 meeting, staff presented information regarding the development fees in the NWA of the city - specifically water and sewer connection fees. These fees were intentionally set higher in the NWA of the city in order to recoup the costs spent on extending water and sewer service without assessing property owners at the time. However, the fees are presenting an increasing challenge to development in the area, risking the possibility that no fees are collected if development goes elsewhere.

At the January 8 meeting, Council asked a number of questions about the initial cost of extending the utilities, remaining balances on the debt issued, fairness of reducing fees now, etc. Staff has been working to research these subjects and will provide an update to Council and seek some feedback and direction on next steps.

FISCAL IMPACT

RECOMMENDATION

This is an update / discussion item. No formal action is requested.

ATTACHMENTS

None



Request for Council Action

SUBJECT: **Closed Session Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Sec. 13D.05, subd. (3)(c)(3)**

MEETING DATE: February 5, 2024

ITEM TYPE: Discussion Items

CONTACT: Kris Wilson, City Administrator, 651.450.2511

ACTION REQUESTED

The Council is asked to move into a closed session to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase of real property.

BACKGROUND

The Council is asked to make a motion to close the meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 13D.05, subdivision 3(c) (3) in order to develop or consider offers or counteroffers for the purchase of property for park uses.

FISCAL IMPACT

n/a

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends a motion to close the meeting as described above.

ATTACHMENTS

None